



FACE Program Fact Sheet

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

Department of Health and Family Services * Division of Public Health
Bureau of Occupational Health * 1 W. Wilson St. * PO Box 2659
Madison, WI 53701-2659 * (608) 266-7298

Publication Number PPH 041

Florist Pinned Between Bucket of a Forklift and a Truck

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program received reports of 104 occupational fatalities that occurred in 2000. One of those occurred when a florist was pinned between the bucket of a forklift and the back of a semi-truck. This fact sheet describes the incident and requests that safety professionals and companies bring the listed recommendations to the attention of employees who work near forklifts and other industrial trucks.

THE INCIDENT

A 36-year-old male florist died after being pinned between the bucket of a bucket loader/forklift (forklift) and the back of a semi trailer. The florist owned the floral shop on the street where the incident occurred. An employee of an excavating company, which was contracted to provide forklift services at the floral shop site, operated the loader. The employee had not received formal forklift operator training.

The florist stood at the back of the trailer and directed the forklift operator to move closer to the trailer so a chain could be attached to the bucket. The forklift lurched 3-4 feet forward, pinning the victim against the trailer. After several unsuccessful attempts to shift into reverse, the forklift operator backed the machine away and the victim fell to the ground. Emergency services took the victim to a hospital, where he died.

An inspection of the forklift after the incident revealed the brakes and transmission needed major repairs, and had been malfunctioning before the incident.



Photo of Forklift and Back of Semi Truck

RECOMMENDATIONS

To prevent similar occurrences, companies that use forklifts and other industrial trucks should:

- **establish and enforce a industrial truck safety program, including inspection, maintenance and operator training.**
- **instruct employees and other individuals to stand away from the pathway of a forklift.**

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, in agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational fatalities. The Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program focuses on identifying factors that increase the risk of work-related fatal injuries. The Wisconsin FACE Program helps in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing fatal work injuries.

PLEASE POST

FACE information is produced and distributed to provide current, relevant education on methods to prevent severe work-related injuries.

If you have comments or questions, please call the FACE Project at 608/266-7298, or write:

**FACE Program
WI Department of Health and Family Services
Division of Public Health
P.O. Box 2659
Madison WI 53701-2659**